

*Coming in January 1988*

## Smallpox and its Eradication

**The definitive history of the world's most triumphant achievement in public health**

In 31 chapters, *Smallpox and its Eradication* recounts the history of one of humanity's worst diseases, moving from ancient times, through the discovery of vaccination, to the spectacular WHO-led programme that finally vanquished the disease. Authored by experts personally involved in the eradication campaign, the book gives posterity a minutely detailed account of both how the disease once reigned and what was necessary, step by step and country by country, to eliminate the "ancient scourge" once and for all. Virtually everything ever known or believed about the disease, and everything that happened during the global eradication campaign, has been collected and preserved in this richly illustrated account.

For scientists and clinicians, *Smallpox and its Eradication* will serve as a complete and final review of knowledge on the clinical features, virology, pathology, immunology, and epidemiology of smallpox and other orthopoxviruses. For students of public health and medical historians, the book offers access to a wealth of previously unpublished data and personal experiences that make up the saga of a public health event unprecedented in scope and unparalleled in the magnitude of its achievement. For posterity, *Smallpox and its Eradication* will serve, above all, as an inspiring reminder of the time when the world united, behind a humanitarian goal, and destroyed a disease forever.

## SMALLPOX and its Eradication

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F. Fenner • D. A. Henderson  
I. Arita • Z. Jezek • I. D. Ladnyi

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
Geneva

### Smallpox and its Eradication

by F. Fenner, D.A. Henderson, I. Arita,  
Z. Jezek, and I.D. Ladnyi  
1988, approx. 1500 pages, 471 tables,  
275 figures, 316 plates and 84 colourplates  
ISBN 92 4 156110 6

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Address orders to: World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27,  
Switzerland, or to any of the sales agents listed on inside back cover.

## WHO Drug Information

**A quarterly bulletin of essential information for drug manufacturers, pharmacists, regulatory authorities and teachers of medicine**

*WHO Drug Information* has been inaugurated as a means of communicating drug information that is either developed and issued by WHO or transmitted to WHO by research and regulatory agencies throughout the world. Most information comes from sources that would not otherwise be available in published form.

### Information developed by WHO

- Discursive commentaries on drugs of contemporary relevance to drug regulatory authorities
- Regular presentation of newly proposed and recommended International Non-proprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceutical Substances
- Information on the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce
- Changes in the Model List of Essential Drugs, including updated versions of model information sheets

### Information from research centres and regulatory authorities

Information from these sources represents the wide range of efforts to monitor drug safety, encourage informed therapeutic choices, and support the search for more effective drugs. In view of the extent of these efforts, the journal gives priority to reports from epidemiological studies, drug trials, and regulatory authorities that can alert manufacturers and prescribers to

- newly detected side-effects

- dangerous drug combinations
- drugs contraindicated in certain patient groups (children, the elderly, pregnant women)
- amendments in product information
- changes in treatment of choice for specific disorders
- new indications for established preparations

News briefs also provide background information on why new products have been refused registration or why existing products have been withdrawn from the market. Other sections cover newly approved products, discuss promising technologies in drug research, and examine ways to reduce expenditures on drugs.

Backed by WHO's position as a directing and coordinating authority, *WHO Drug Information* should do much to meet the need for consumer protection while also supporting the industry's impetus to develop better products and maintain public faith in its vigilant control of drug safety.

### WHO Drug Information

#### Bibliographical data

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Sw. fr. 18.—

*Just published*

## **The Mechanism of Action, Safety and Efficacy of Intrauterine Devices**

**The book that sets the record straight on risks associated with IUD use**

This book provides an expert summary of what can be concluded, on the basis of available evidence, about the mechanism of action, safety, and efficacy of intrauterine devices (IUDs). Prepared by a group of 16 international experts, the report examines the findings and design of close to 350 studies in an effort to resolve several important questions, including the possibility that use of IUDs is associated with an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy or of pelvic inflammatory disease and subsequent tubal infertility. The report draws additional authority for its conclusions from the number of large-scale randomized multicentre studies available for analysis.

Following brief background information on the extent of IUD use and the history of its development, the report evaluates different explanations for the contraceptive efficacy of these devices. Theories reviewed include those implicating morphological changes, biochemical changes, prostaglandins and allied substances, biological changes, embryo-specific substances, sperm migration, and the transport and development of ova. A section devoted to the effectiveness of IUDs analyses the results of multicentre randomized trials indicating pregnancy rates during the first and second years of IUD use and after four or five years of use. Of particular practical interest is a discussion of the most appropriate timing of IUD insertion, which notes that the conventional timing of insertion during or immediately after menstruation may not be necessary. The section also offers advice on the advantages and risks, such as expulsion, pregnancy, perforation, and infection rates, associated with IUD insertion postpartum, postplacental, at the time of Caesarean section, and postabortion.

The remaining and most extensive sections of the report are devoted to a critical review of indications and contraindications for the use of IUDs. Separate sections examine the association between IUD use and the incidence of ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, problems associated with menstrual blood loss, and other problems, such as expulsion, uterine perforation, restoration of fertility, and pregnancy with an IUD in place.

Apart from pointing out problems in the design or interpretation of published evidence, these sections offer extensive practical advice concerning the evaluation and management of complications as well as the specific precautions that can reduce the incidence of side-effects, whether serious or merely troublesome. Other chapters cover patient selection and choice of method, compare IUDs with other methods of contraception, and outline the legal situation in the United States of America. The report closes with a summary of conclusions and recommendations, including 25 problems requiring further investigation.

### **The Mechanism of Action, Safety and Efficacy of Intrauterine Devices**

Report of a WHO Scientific Group  
Technical Report Series, No. 753  
1987, 91 pages  
ISBN 92 4 120753 1  
Sw.fr. 12.—/US \$7.20



**Published by the World Health Organization**

Address orders to: World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, or to any of the sales agents listed on inside back cover.

*Just published*

## **Rational Use of Diagnostic Imaging in Paediatrics**

**A technical report that promises to stimulate major changes in routine imaging practice**

This book presents straightforward, precise and highly detailed advice concerning the correct and safe use of diagnostic imaging techniques in paediatric patients, including neonates. Both conventional imaging techniques and a range of new procedures are considered in detail. The objective is to make readers conscious of the many clinical and technical questions surrounding specific techniques and specific indications and then to answer these questions as clearly and authoritatively as possible. Recommended do's and don'ts, which represent the consensus reached by 17 international experts, are backed by reference to well over 500 published reports. Throughout the book, emphasis is placed on the urgent and universal need to eliminate unnecessary and potentially dangerous examinations, many of which have become part of routine practice.

The main part of the book consists of chapters covering diagnostic techniques and indications for each of four body regions: the chest, the extremities, the abdomen, and the skull and spine. For each body region, readers are introduced to all imaging techniques, whether conventional or new, common or rarely used, that might be relevant to diagnostic decisions and procedures in that body region. Techniques are succinctly characterized in terms of their advantages, limitations, potential to yield accurate diagnostic information, proper application, effectiveness compared with other techniques, associated risks to children or neonates, and common technical or diagnostic errors.

Each chapter then lists all relevant indications, specific to the body region, where different imaging techniques might be considered as a diagnostic aid. In view of the dangers of radiation exposure in this age group as well as cost considerations, these sections make a special

effort to give paediatricians, physicians, and radiologists reliable advice concerning which films should be taken, which clinical examinations are more helpful, and which imaging practices should be discouraged as yielding neither useful, reliable, nor exclusive diagnostic information. The book concludes with an outline of general measures that can result in substantial reductions in unnecessary exposure. Ten measures that can be implemented in any X-ray department are followed by an additional eight measures relevant to departments where special-purpose equipment is available for paediatric radiology.

Concise and to the point, the book presents technical information and arguments of sufficient strength to encourage major changes in routine imaging practice, underscoring the clear advantages of these techniques in well-defined cases while also pointing out the many other cases where clinical examinations provide the best, the safest, and the most cost-effective diagnostic information in paediatric patients.

### **Rational Use of Diagnostic Imaging in Paediatrics**

Report of a WHO Study Group  
Technical Report Series, No. 757

1987, 102 pages

ISBN 92 4 120757 4

Sw.fr. 14.—/US \$8.40

(Also available in a French edition)



**Published by the World Health Organization**

Address orders to: World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, or to any of the sales agents listed on inside back cover.

## Informations Pharmaceutiques OMS

**Bulletin trimestriel présentant des informations essentielles aux fabricants de médicaments, aux pharmaciens, aux organismes de réglementation et au corps enseignant des écoles de médecine**

*Informations Pharmaceutiques OMS* a pour but de communiquer des informations pharmaceutiques établies et diffusées par l'OMS ou transmises à l'OMS par des instituts de recherche et des organismes de réglementation du monde entier. Dans la plupart des cas les informations présentées resteraient autrement inédites car elles proviennent de sources non publiées.

### Informations établies par l'OMS:

- commentaires descriptifs sur des médicaments présentant un intérêt immédiat pour les organismes de réglementation des médicaments;
- présentation régulière des dénominations communes internationales (DCI) de substances pharmaceutiques nouvellement proposées et recommandées;
- information sur le système OMS de certification de la qualité des produits pharmaceutiques entrant dans le commerce international;
- modifications de la liste modèle de médicaments essentiels, et versions mises à jour de fiches d'information modèles.

### Informations provenant de centres de recherche et d'organismes de réglementation

Les informations provenant de ces sources représentent les multiples efforts déployés pour surveiller l'innocuité des médicaments, permettre des décisions thérapeutiques en connaissance de cause et faciliter la recherche de médicaments plus efficaces. Compte tenu de l'étendue de ces efforts, la revue donne la priorité aux rapports consécutifs à des études épidémiologiques ou à des essais de médicaments et provenant d'organismes de réglementation, susceptibles d'attirer l'attention des fabricants et des prescripteurs sur:

- des effets secondaires nouvellement détectés;

- des associations médicamenteuses dangereuses;
- des médicaments considérés contre-indiqués pour certains groupes de patients (enfants, personnes âgées, femmes enceintes);
- des modifications de l'information sur les produits;
- des changements dans le meilleur traitement possible de troubles spécifiques;
- de nouvelles indications concernant des préparations existantes.

Des dossiers d'information exposent également les raisons pour lesquelles de nouveaux produits n'ont pas été homologués ou des produits existants ont été retirés du marché. D'autres sections sont consacrées à des nouvelles technologies de recherche prometteuses, aux produits récemment approuvés et aux moyens permettant de réduire les dépenses pharmaceutiques.

Appuyé par l'OMS dans ses fonctions de direction et de coordination, *Informations Pharmaceutiques OMS* devrait largement contribuer à la protection nécessaire du consommateur tout en soutenant l'industrie pharmaceutique dans ses efforts pour mettre au point de meilleurs produits et conserver la confiance du public dans son contrôle vigilant de l'innocuité des médicaments.

### Informations Pharmaceutiques OMS

#### Renseignements bibliographiques

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